

**HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION
FULL COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES
June 30, 2004 4:00 p.m. Council Chambers**

PRESENT

Cindy Felsten
Jay Myers
Gil Palmer
Chrystal Pushor
Wes Roy
Jason Staley
Barbara Stevens
Dick Underdahl-Peirce
Madhu Vedak

ABSENT

Ian Kohen
Marie Schroeder
Madhu Vedak

STAFF PRESENT:

Director Arlette Tinsley, Deputy Director Lorraine Smith, and Secretary Lula Young.

SECRETARY'S REPORT:

Commissioner Pushor moved to accept the May minutes as written. Commissioner Underdahl-Peirce seconded. Motion passed.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

Deputy Director Smith reported the Donations account beginning balance was \$4,012.69. With total deposits of \$64.00, expenses of \$221.87, as of June 30th the account has an ending balance of \$3,854.82. All Annual Dinner invoices have been paid.

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT:

No report.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

Director Tinsley reported Chrissy Woszczyński was selected as Bartholomew County's first winner of the Indiana Consortium scholarship from Bartholomew County. Commissioner Staley reported that Ms. Woszczyński and her parents attended the Consortium's annual conference dinner. As a co-winner, Ms. Woszczyński was recognized at the Indiana Consortium's Annual Conference where both winners were awarded a scholarship of \$500.

Director Tinsley announced that the 2005 Budget proposal would be turned in on July 1st. Additional information reported to Commissioners was that Council member Martha Myers would be the Commission's new liaison as current liaison, Craig Hawes has been recalled to active military duty. The case report was provided in the newsletter distributed to Commissioners by Director Tinsley.

Director Tinsley introduced Cindy Frey, Diversity Coordinator from the Columbus Center for Teaching and Learning who presented information on her project, Creating a Culture of Inclusion for Bartholomew County.

FOR DISCUSSION/OPEN FORUM:

Cindy Frey provided a presentation illustrating various activities incorporated into Bartholomew Consolidated School Corporation (BCSC). The goal is building bridges to diverse populations. Primary focus started with two populations: students living in poverty and English as a Second Language (ESL) students. Ms. Frey stated the program's goal is to expand literacy for ESL students and those with Limited English Proficiency (LEP). Clifty Creek Elementary, as a magnet school in BCSC for ESL students, has had various projects implemented to aid a student body that speaks 15 different languages and a large percentage of students that receive free lunches and text rental assistance.

Mr. Frank Souza, a volunteer heavily involved in the mentoring program described some of the challenges and offered solutions to the literacy challenges for immigrants. Northside Middle School Principal, Charlie McCoy, discussed the No Child Left Behind (NCLB) legislation, and what is needed to meet the educational needs of the students. Principal McCoy discussed the administration's efforts to effectively meet the needs of students living in poverty. Currently being utilized is the research of Dr. Ruby Payne, who has done extensive research on dealing with students living in poverty.

Cindy Frey noted this opportunity arose when the Heritage Fund and Irwin-Sweeney-Miller Foundations, in celebrating their 25th and 50th anniversaries respectively, wanted to address the needs of Columbus' growing and changing population. The effort was made possible by multiple organizations.

OTHER BUSINESS:

Commissioner Staley, who attended the Indiana Consortium Annual Conference, presented Director Tinsley with a certificate from the Indiana Consortium of State and Local Human Rights Agencies applauding the efforts and dedication of the CHRC.

There being no further business Commissioner Myers moved to adjourn. Commissioner Roy seconded. Meeting adjourned.